

NORTH VIETNAM

Communist Harvest

According to the January 1964 Report of the Statistical Department of North Vietnam, the year 1963 was a disaster on the farm. Production of all foodstuffs was far below the 1962 mark; the cattle herds diminished; and the central authorities were unable to control prices and distribution (*i.e.*, free enterprise, via black markets, disrupted socialist planning). Agriculture is 87.7% collectivized in North Vietnam. In 1963 the government

Abroad

conscripted factory workers to help out on the farm by the tens of thousands and carried out purges of the leadership of one-fifth of the 25,000 collectives. But by year-end the collectives were still not delivering, and the government was dispatching army troops and trusted Party members to bring in the crops at gun point. The only thing that keeps North Vietnam from starvation is the cultivation of private plots, which the government has permitted, in a small way, since 1961. All things considered, Ho Chi-minh's easiest solution to the farm problem is to conquer the rich rice fields of South Vietnam.

PARIS

Chinese Delicacies

After appearing for six months without interference, the March number of the Maoist *Révolution*, edited by Jacques Verges (formerly attorney for the Algerian FLN), was prohibited by a decree of the Sureté Nationale. The trouble was an article by Alain Plénel, "The Last Overseas Departments," which argued rather plausibly for the independence of Réunion, Guadeloupe and Martinique—"the leftover confetti from the Carnival of Empire." However, neither author, editor nor publisher was indicted, and the April issue is out on schedule.

KIEV

In the Spirit of Goebbels

The anti-Semitism expressed indirectly but unmistakably in the daily press and the campaign against "economic crimes" have recently been given systematic statement by T. K. Kichko in a volume (*Judaism Unmasked*) published by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Sample Kichkoisms: "During the years of the Hitlerite occupation, the Zionist leaders served the fascists. . . . Judaic ideology is impregnated with narrow utilitarianism, envy, love of money, egotism. . . . The Judaic cult in its entirety is simply the translation of cheating into religious language. . . . In all its practices, it is money that counts most, along with scorn of productive work."

MECCA

Slave Bargain Counter

An unexpected arrival in Geneva during the March meeting of the World Trade Conference was a delegation purporting to represent the underground resistance move-

ment of Saudi Arabian slaves. This delegation, which petitioned the UN and Red Cross organizations to take official notice, may have been a Communist or Nasserite plant. But there is no doubt of the reality of the problem to which it directed attention. Slaves for the Arab nations, above all Saudi Arabia, mostly obtained from east and central Africa, are still being sold by the hundreds of thousands. It is estimated that there are more than ten million at the present time. The most active sales market is at Mecca, where the price ranges from \$30 to \$125 each, depending on age, weight and strength.

NEW DELHI

The Bitterest Fruit

Nothing is more upsetting to the Indians than the fact that after winning independence from the English they had to retain English as the official language, since it is the only language common to the majority of the educated class of 7 or 8 million who man and run the



Punch

Ben Roth Agency

"Chou En-lai is angry!"

country. As a sop to nationalism, a clause was inserted in the Constitution providing that English would be dropped in 1965 in favor of Hindi. But only a minority of the educated class speak Hindi, and few recruits are learning it. And there are ardent chauvinists for other of the native languages, who detest Hindi even more than English. Hindi-speaking members howl at Nehru because he addresses the Chamber only in English—they know that he can only stumble along in bad Hindi. Non-Hindi members denounce "Hindi imperialism." One member staged a lie-down demonstration on the chamber floor, and had to be carried out. More than a hundred members were thoroughly confused: they speak and understand neither English nor Hindi.

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